

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----004916 221855Z /44

P R 221831Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0848
INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13704

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV CH TW US GW
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PEKING VISIT: BRIEFING FOR ALLIES

REF: STATE 198748; BONN 13344

SUMMARY. FRG FONOFF HAS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING ON THE SECRETARY'S PEKING VISIT AND SATISFACTION WITH THE CONTINUING US MOVEMENT TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. THE FRG ALSO AGREES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CHINESE ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, AS A STEP TOWARD POSSIBLE FUTURE POLITICAL COOPERATION. ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE, GENSCHER WILL DOUBTLESS WISH TO MAKE MANY OF THE SAME POINTS AS THE SECRETARY IN HIS OWN FORTHCOMING TRIP TO PEKING. END SUMMARY.

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1. EMBOFF BRIEFED WEGNER, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EAST ASIAN AFFAIRS, ON THE BASIS OF REFTTEL. AFTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING, WEGNER ALSO STATED THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT AND, IN GENERAL, THE LINE THE ADMINISTRATION WAS FOLLOWING WITH REGARD TO TAIWAN WERE VERY HELPFUL TO THE FRG IN ITS OWN DEALINGS WITH WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS THE "TAIWAN LOBBY."

2. WEGNER ELABORATED THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE TAIWANESE WERE NOT DIRECTED EXCLUSIVELY AT THE US, AND THAT THERE WERE CONSTANT EFFORTS WITH THE FRG, AND PRESUMABLY OTHERS, TO SEEK AN OFFICIAL ROLE FOR TAIWAN IN SUCH MATTERS AS TRADE, CULTURE, AND SPORTS. THE FRG WAS GLAD TO BE ABLE TO HAVE RECOURSE TO OFFICIAL USG POLICY, WHICH THE FRG SAW CLEARLY AS LEADING TO THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. THE MESSAGE THE FRG TRIED TO GIVE THE TAIWANESE WAS THAT THEY HAVE A FUTURE BUT THAT THEY MUST STOP PRETENDING TO BE THE ROC.

3. WEGNER CONTINUED THAT, IN HIS ESTIMATION, THERE WAS NO SOLUTION TO NORMALIZATION OTHER THAN A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN. HE COMMENDED THE "JAPANESE SOLUTION," WITH A SWITCH FROM RECOGNITION OF THE ROC TO NON-RECOGNITION. WHILE THIS CARRIED WITH IT THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCE THAT ALL TREATIES WITH THE ROC BECAME VOID, THE US COULD, AS HAD JAPAN, MAINTAIN ON A PRIVATE BASIS ALL THE CONTACTS WHICH PRESENTLY WERE BASED ON TREATY RELATIONSHIPS. EVEN FOR CONTINUATION OF THE US DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN A TREATY WAS NOT ESSENTIAL, WEGNER SUGGESTED; A UNILATERAL DECLARATION WOULD SUFFICE. ALL WAS DEPENDENT ON A TACIT UNDERSTANDING WITH THE PRC THAT IT WOULD NOT ATTACK

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TAIWAN. WEGNER WAS CONVINCED, ON THE BASIS OF HIS OWN TRAVELS IN EAST ASIA, THAT -- SINCE THE JAPANESE HAVE

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13704

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ALREADY TAKEN THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR NORMALIZATION --
THERE WOULD BE NO GREAT CONCERN ON THE PART OF OTHER
COUNTRIES IN THE AREA IF THE US WERE TO FOLLOW SUIT.

4. WHILE NOTING THAT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO SPECULATE
ON THE RESULTS OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP, EMBOFF INVITED
WEGNER'S ATTENTION ONCE MORE TO THE POINTS IN REFTEL
THAT THE US WOULD NOT EXPECT TO CONCLUDE A
NORMALIZATION AGREEMENT DURING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP
AND ALSO THAT THE US CONSIDERED "MUTUAL AND RECIPROCAL
EFFORTS" ESSENTIAL. WEGNER WAS NOT
SANGUINE THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY GIVE FROM THE PRC
IN THE DIRECTION OF RECIPROCITY.

5. WEGNER ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE LOOKED UPON THE
SECRETARY'S DISCUSSION OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES AS BEING
EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THE NORMALIZATION TALKS.
IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND TO WHAT
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EXTENT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO WORK WITH THE CHINESE. WHILE
POLITICAL COOPERATION WAS STILL A LONG WAY OFF, THERE
WAS GREAT VALUE IN GAINING A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF
CHINESE THOUGHTS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS ON ISSUES OF
COMMON INTEREST. FROM THIS MIGHT FLOW FUTURE
COOPERATION. AS FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S OWN TRIP
TO CHINA IS STILL A LONG WAY OFF (AND WEGNER SAID THERE
WAS AT LEAST A ONE PERCENT CHANCE THAT IT MIGHT NOT
TAKE PLACE), PREPARATION OF BRIEFING PAPERS HAD NOT YET
BEGUN. THE FRG WILL WELCOME POST-TRIP INFORMATION ON
THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS, AS GENSCHER WILL DOUBTLESS
WISH TO EMPHASIZE SOME OF THE SAME POINTS AS THE
SECRETARY.
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